GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2618
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRAI ON FM RADIO
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended issuance of more than one licence for FM Radio at district level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the TRAI has also recommended increase in FDI in this sector from 20 per cent to 49 per cent;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the said recommendations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & b): Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended that at least three channels excluding All India Radio (AIR) will be given to three different entities. Once this condition is met in any district, the existing operators/permission holder can bid for the remaining channels and may be declared successful for any channel where his bid is highest subject to the condition that maximum number of channels to a permission holder in the district will not be more than 50% of total channels in the district.

(c) & (d): TRAI has also recommended that FDI including Foreign Institutional Investment for FM Radio broadcasting permission holders may be enhanced to 26% from the present level of 20% for those who want to broadcast news and to 49% for those who do not opt for news broadcasting.

(e) : Recommendations of TRAI have been received in the Government on 22.02.2008. A view has not been taken on them.